His Majesties
MOST GRACIOUS
SPEECH
To both Houses of
PARLIAMENT,
On *Friday* the 22th of *May*, 1685.

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PARLIAMENT

SPEECH

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On *Friday* the 22th of *May*, 1685.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

AFter it pleased Almighty God to take to his Mercy, the Late King, My Dearest Brother, and to bring Me to the Peaceable Possession of the Throne of My Ancestors; I immediately Resolved to Call a Parliament, as the best Means to Settle every Thing upon those Foundations that may make My Reign both

Eaſie and Happy to you, towards which I am Diſpoſed to Contribute all that is Fit for Me to do; What I ſaid to My Privy-Council at My firſt Coming there, I am deſirous to Renew to you; Wherein I fully Declared My Opinion concerning the Principles of the Church of *England*, whoſe Members have ſhewed themſelves ſo Eminently Loyal in the Worſt of Times, in Defence of My Father, and Support of My Brother, of Bleſſed Memory, That I will always take Care to Defend and Support it: I will make it My Endeavour to Preſerve this Government both in Church and State, as it is now by Law Eſtabliſhed; And as I will never Depart from the Juſt Rights and Prerogative of the Crown, ſo I will never Invade any Mans Property; And you may be ſure, That having heretofore Ventured My Life in the Defence of this Nation, I ſhall ſtill Go as far as any Man in Preſerving it in all its Juſt Rights and Liberties. And having given

given you this Assurance concerning the Care I will have of your Religion and Property, which I have chosen to do in the same Words I used at My first Coming to the Crown, the better to Evidence to you, That I Spoke Them not by chance, and Consequently, That you may the more Firmly Rely upon a Promise so Solemnly Made; I cannot Doubt that I shall fail of Sutable Returns from you, with all imaginable Duty and Kindness on your Part, and particularly, in what Relates to the Settling of My Revenue, and Continuing it during my Life, as it was in the Time of the King My Brother: I might Use many Arguments to Enforce this Demand, from the Benefit of Trade, The Support of the Navy, The Necessity of the Crown, and the Well-being of the Government it self, which I must not suffer to be Precarious; But I am confident your own Consideration of what is Just and Reasonable, will Suggest to you whatsoever might be Enlarged upon

upon this Occasion. There is One Popular Argument, which I foresee may be used against What I Ask of you, from the Inclination Men may have for Frequent Parliaments, which some may think would be the best Secured, by Feeding Me from Time to Time, by such Proportions as they shall think Convenient; And this Argument, it being the First Time I Speak to you from the Throne, I will Answer Once for All: That This would be a very Improper Method to Take with Me; And, That the best Way to Engage Me to Meet you often is Always to use Me well; I expect therefore, That you will Comply with Me in what I have Desired, and that you will Do it speedily, That this may be a short Session, and That We may Meet again to all Our Satisfactions.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I must Acquaint you that I have had News this Morning from *Scotland*, that

That *Argile* is Landed in the *West High-Lands*, with the Men he brought with him from *Holland*, and that there are Two Declarations Publiſhed, One in the Name of all thoſe in Arms there, The Other in his Own; It would be too long for Me to Repeat the Subſtance of them, It is ſufficient to tell you, I am Charged with Uſurpation and Tyranny: The Shorter of them I have Directed to be forthwith Communicated to you; I will take the beſt Care I can That this Declaration of their own Treaſon and Rebellion may meet with the Reward it deſerves, and I will not doubt but that you all will be the more Zealous to Support the Government, and give Me My Revenue, as I have deſired it without Delay.

FINIS.